

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: DETECTIVE ERIK PERKETT (EP), P# 14152

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE S. KEITH (SK), P# 9190, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-06-17 at 1311 hours.

SK: All right. Operator, this is Detective Keith, P# 9190, with the Force Investigation Team conducting a victim-witness officer interview as part of, uh, Event# 171001-3519. This interview is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, Building A, Third Floor Conference Room. Uh, the date is 10-6-2017. The time is 1311 hours. Uh, person being interviewed is Erik Perkett. First name, E-R-I-K. Last name is P-E-R-K-E-T-T. P# is 14152. His call sign for that night was R15. His date of hire is [REDACTED]. He is currently assigned to the Robbery Detail. His RDOs are Thursday, Friday, Saturday. His hours at 1500 to 0100. His vehicle number he was operating

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on the night of the incident was 3796. Uh, no one is present - no one else is present.

Uh, are you aware this is being recorded?

EP: Yes.

SK: Okay. Um, what - what were you wearing that night?

EP: I was wearing, uh, my tactical vest that said police on the front and back with a Metro badge that had all my, uh, normal, uh, duty belt gear on it. Underneath that, I had a grey polo shirt with blue jeans and brown, uh, cowboy boots.

SK: Okay. Did you have a firearm?

EP: Yes. I did.

SK: Okay.

EP: I had two firearms.

SK: Okay. All right. So basically just tell me how you learned about the call and what your response was.

EP: Uh, on the day of, we were working and when I say we, um, myself, Detective Wyrock and Sergeant Jungy were up in Building A on the Fourth Floor working in the Robbery Bay when we received a call from Joe Parra. Uh, Joe Parra called and said, "Hey, there's an active shooter going on in Convention Center Area Command." Uh, we looked at CAD. We saw that there was a 415A in call that had been generated at Mandalay Bay. Sergeant Jungy then turned on, uh, his portable radio to the Convention Center Area Command and we could hear officers, uh, advising that

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there's an active shooter and we can hear automatic weapon fire in the background on the radio. Uh, due to that, we immediately left the office. Um, by we, I mean, myself and Detective Wyrock. Uh, we proceeded down to the parking lot and got in our separate, uh, take home vehicles. I played, uh, I put my tactical vest on prior to leaving and left the parking lot Code 3, Mandalay Bay, uh, based upon the active shooter. Uh, from there, I exited on Russell Road from the I-15 to the back of the, uh, Convention Center Parking Garage off of Russell. Uh, listening to the, uh, that's where I assigned myself and told, uh, dispatch on admin channel that I was arrived, uh, using my call sign R15 for the day. Uh, listening to the radio traffic on Convention Center, I proceeded to, uh, Hacienda and went to the east valet off of Hacienda. Um, parking in the east valet, uh, parking area underneath the awning. Um, I got out of my car. Locked it. And, uh, started walking south towards the boulevard trying to look up towards the building trying to figure out where the shooting was coming from. Um, I didn't hear any shooting or see any shooting at the time so I proceeded into Mandalay Bay advising people that there was an active shooter, to take cover. Um, proceeding into Mandalay Bay, I met up with, uh, Scott Murray in the lobby by registration and Scott Murray and I discussed that the -- we were given reports of an active shooter on floor 29 and floor 32. Uh, Scott Murray and I decided that we needed to go to floor 29 because there were already officers on floor 32 and take out that threat if necessary. Scott Murray and I then walked to the elevator bays right by registration where we met up with, uh, Sergeant BiTsko, Stephen Trzpis, uh, Sergeant Matchko, uh, I believe, uh, Verl Conover and, uh, Dave Newton from K-9

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along with a couple other officers who are also in tactical gear. And, uh, we decided to split up into two four man teams. Uh, Sergeant Matchko would take his team up to the 32nd floor to aide patrol that was on that floor. And I went with Sergeant Bitsko's team which was, uh, Sergeant Bitsko, myself, Stephen Trzpis and Dave Newton to the 28th floor in order to work up to the 29th floor to take out that threat. Uh, we exited the 28th floor with, uh, Sergeant Bitsko being on with the rifle and our team having a ballistic shield. We then, uh, began clearing the hallways on the 28th all the way through the 31st floor because we didn't find an active shooter on the 29th floor. Um, going through the hallways, we could smell the gun powder heavily in the air. Uh, we didn't see anybody, uh, in the rooms. We didn't see any, uh, bullet holes or any ballistic markings on the walls that would indicate that there was an active shooter on the 29th. When we got to the 31st floor, we cleared the floor and we ended up meeting up with Levi Hancock who had a couple of officers with him. Uh, we made a quick decision to proceed to the stairwell next to the, uh, the suite for, uh, 130- the 135 area. And, uh, the minute we walked into the stairwell, we met with, uh, or we encountered a couple security guards and two patrol officers. They were stationed on the 31st floor and they advised us that, uh, they had heard automatic gun fire on the 32nd floor. Um, due to that, we walked by them and proceeded up the stairwell to the 32nd floor. Once we got to the 32nd floor, we found out that the door had been, uh, barricaded or locked and it would not open, uh, from the stairwell. We then used a, uh, small pry tool that Levi Hancock had with his tool bag and broke open that door. Also doing that we, uh, we decided that we wanted to break out the

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lights for officer safety and concealment in the stairwell, um, based upon our position next to Room 32-135 and the target. So then I took the pry tool and got, uh, lifted up by a couple of officers and broke the stairway lights in the stairwell. Um, once we broke the door in from the stairwell, we went into that little -- I don't know -- what'd you call like an alcove or a room between the hallway and the stairwell and we packed inside there. Same thing, we, uh, I use the pry bar. I was lifted up and I broke the light in the, uh, little tiny room to give us self-concealment and officer safety during our approach to the actual target room. Uh, we then used the ballistic shield to prop open the door and, uh, gain a little bit of, um, eyes on the door to see what we were working with. Uh, at that time, Sergeant Matchko's team, we realized was also working their way down the hallway at the same time that we were opening up the door and there was almost a blue on blue incident because, uh, we hadn't accurately, uh, notified each other of our whereabouts. So we advised Sergeant Matchko and his team to stay where they were at halfway down the hall and, uh, that's when Levi asked for, uh - uh, his - or went to go get his bag and got the, uh, explosive breach out of his bag. So Levi, we backed up into the stairwell while Levi, uh, set up the explosive breach and we set up a, uh, entry team. So the entry team, uh, as far as I know was made up of Levi, Sergeant Bitsko, Dave Newton, uh, Stephen Trzpis, uh, Officer Magsaysay, Matt Donaldson and, uh, Walford. I don't remember his first name. Um, they were - they were designated as the entry team 'cause they had rifles, uh, and that way it was an equal rifle on rifle, uh, entry. I designated myself as a rear guard and downed officer rescue with another officer that

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I can't remember his name. Uh, we worked out a plan that hey, once we get up there and do rear guard, if one of them goes down, we're going to immediately evacuate them out of the room and bring them down and evacuate 'em out of the hotel for triage. Uh, once, uh, oh, we also had informa- we also began to get information that he possibly had the room next to him that that room was involved. Uh, I can't remember the room number. Uh, but that was the room where the, uh, room service cart was sitting outside of.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: So we saw the room service cart and we saw wires going underneath the door. Uh, so that's also why we believed that it could be involved. Uh, we didn't know if he had maybe put explosives on the door. Um, but, uh, the idea was, Levi would, uh, blow the door and see if he responds with gunfire to the explosive breach. Um, if he didn't, then they would enter and we'd proceed with the entry plan. So this was communicated to Sergeant Matchko to advise him that there would be an explosive breach, that we would be entering into the suite upon the explosive breach and for his team to hold. So that way there was no blue, you know, any blue on blue incident, no one got shot. Um, once the explosive breach went off, we waited maybe a second or two where there was no gun fire and they proceeded with the entry plan. So all the officers that were, uh, deemed for entry, they went inside the entry way. Me and another officer moved up and placed ourselves, uh, in front of the second door where the room service cart was in case he decided to double back, uh, and try to take out the team that way. So once they cleared the - once they cleared that

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room, they advised that there was a second door leading to the second room and that's where they're going to make entry. So we kept our place on that door 'cause we didn't know if there was a second shooter or if it just, uh, the one shooter inside Suite 135 or if there was another one waiting in the other room.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: So they placed the explosive breach on the, uh, the door inside the Suite 135 going into the other room. Um, when that went off, um, it sounded like there was some gunfire inside the room. I didn't see anybody. No one told me they were - they fired a gun but it sounded like there was some gunfire in the room.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Uh, so at that time, we maybe thought that there was another shooter involved so we kept our place and we had the other, uh, hallway team wait, uh, based upon the fact that no one was asking for assistance inside the room. Uh, they cleared that room and they came back out and said, "He's dead." Uh, at that point, we, uh, told everybody to get out of the room, it was a crime scene at that point. Because if we didn't have a second shooter, we didn't have any other threat inside the room, there was no point, uh, for us to be inside the room. Um, so at that point, uh, Levi and a couple other SWAT officers arrived and they decided they're - they needed to go do something else by clearing the hallways. Um, a lot of the other officers that went into the room also left the hallway. And myself and, uh, Officer Beason, formed up a

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team and we began clearing all 32 - all floor 32 to see if there was any more victims or guests that needed to be evacuated off the floor.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Um, we didn't find anybody injured, but we found there was additional guests that were kind of, uh, hiding inside the rooms and we had security help them get out. Um, after that, I proceeded back to Suite 135 where I stood outside the entire time with, uh, Verl Conover, uh, while Sergeant Matchko and Stephen Trzpis were inside the room gaining intelligence per the CP. Um, that maybe lasted a half hour and then they exited the room and we waited for FIT, uh, detectives to arrive.

SK: Mm-hm. Okay. So at any time during this, did you actually set foot in either room?

EP: No.

SK: Okay. So just kind of backing up a little bit, um, you - you said you arrived, I mean, we - we kind of assume, you know, where, but you said Convention Center Parking Garage. It -- that's at Mandalay Bay, correct?

EP: Yeah. The, uh, the Convention Center Parking Garage is on the, uh, Russell side of like Las Vegas Boulevard and Russell on that corner.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: On the southwest corner and, uh, based upon the traffic on the radio with the boulevard, with people leaving and then trying to get ambulances in, I decided that was not a good, uh, ingress into the area.

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SK: Mm-hm.

EP: So I decided to do Russell Road and take the back way into Mandalay Bay.

SK: Okay. And then as you were clearing those - the rooms prior to getting up to the 32nd floor, were you guys -- did you have a master key? Were you kicking doors or in, opening doors or what -- how were you guys doing that?

EP: We didn't - we didn't clear any of the rooms from 28 to 31 unless they were opened and unlocked.

SK: Okay.

EP: Um, we were specifically, uh, clearing the hallways and looking for signs of an active shooter on those floors to ensure that there wasn't a secondary shooter.

SK: Okay. Uh, at any time, did you perceive while you were there at any time, did you perceive that you were being shot at or that somebody was actively trying to harm you?

EP: Um, it was only on the second breach when I thought I heard a couple of gunshots.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: That maybe we were starting to take fire from the second room.

SK: Okay.

EP: Uh, it was at that point that that's when we thought there would - there could be a second shooter or that there could still be somebody involved. Um, and that was the only time that I thought that we would be in danger at that point. Um, I also thought

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we could be in danger by doing the explosive breach because we didn't have any intelligence on whether he had the doors, uh, wired for explosives.

SK: Okay. Okay. Uh, so did you see any officers discharge their firearms?

EP: No.

SK: Okay. Did you discharge your firearm at any time?

EP: No.

SK: Okay. Um, so these next questions that I'm going to ask, these are the administrative questions, okay?

EP: Yep.

SK: Um, you were already asked that. Um, do you feel as though you were adequately prepared and trained to handle this situation?

EP: Yes. I thought that, uh, the MACTAC training that we have gotten up to this point, uh, based upon other incidents that we've had in the past.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Uh, we were able to coordinate a team leader, coordinate a four man team and accurately and efficiently clear hallways appropriately to get up to where we needed to be where the suspect was.

SK: Okay. Uh, is there any training the department might need to institute to better prepare officers to handle a situation such as this?

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EP: I will say that, uh, the times that I used the shield, I had not been accurately trained on using the shield. Uh, I don't know if that was something maybe that was done more to patrol than it was to officers in the Bureau.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Um, but I was very unaware of how to, uh, accurately and efficiently use a ballistic shield in doing, uh, clearing procedures. And so I thought maybe that was something that could be better taught, uh, to officers, especially detectives in the Bureau, in case something like this happens because we do have a mixture of patrol officers and plain clothes officers coming together.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Um, I think also the communication that we had was okay. I think there was a lot of times where we were trying to advise officers on the radio of our location inside of the Mandalay Bay, but we were being overrun with other radio traffic obviously because of the amount of people injured and the amount...

SK: Right.

EP: ...of triage that needed to be done, that maybe we could have, um, split up a channel where the entry teams inside Mandalay Bay were working off one channel so they could communicate and the triage was working off a separate channel so they could accurately communicate.

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SK: Um, is there any equipment the department might need to consider that could have better assisted you?

EP: The -- once we got up to the 32nd floor, we quickly realized that the ballistic shields that we had were not rifle graded. So it was useless to have that ballistic shield going into the room.

SK: Correct.

EP: And making that entry or for me to have it as a rear guard because it wouldn't have stopped his, uh, rifles that we now know that he had inside the room.

SK: Right.

EP: Um, same with the helmets. Our, you know, our ballistic helmets are not rifle graded and so again, if we - if one of us had gotten shot in the head, it would've immediately killed that person because, I believe, the helmets are only graded up to like a 12 gauge shotgun. Um, I also feel that, you know, more rifle officers would have been better. Um, there's a lot of officers that aren't rifle certified and having officers that are all rifle certified and having a, you know, if every officer is rifle certified and every officer knows how to use a rifle, then if an officer goes down, I could pick his rifle up and know how to immediately use it.

SK: Right.

EP: And stop the action.

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SK: Okay. Um, is there - is there anything that we haven't discussed or something that maybe you thought of again or any questions I have not asked or covered or something that's important that you want to get out about this incident?

EP: No.

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SK: Okay. Uh, operator, this is the end of the interview. Same persons are present. The time is 1329 hours.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1329 HOURS.

**SK: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032**

REVIEWED BY P. QUINTEROS P #9055 ON 10/10/17